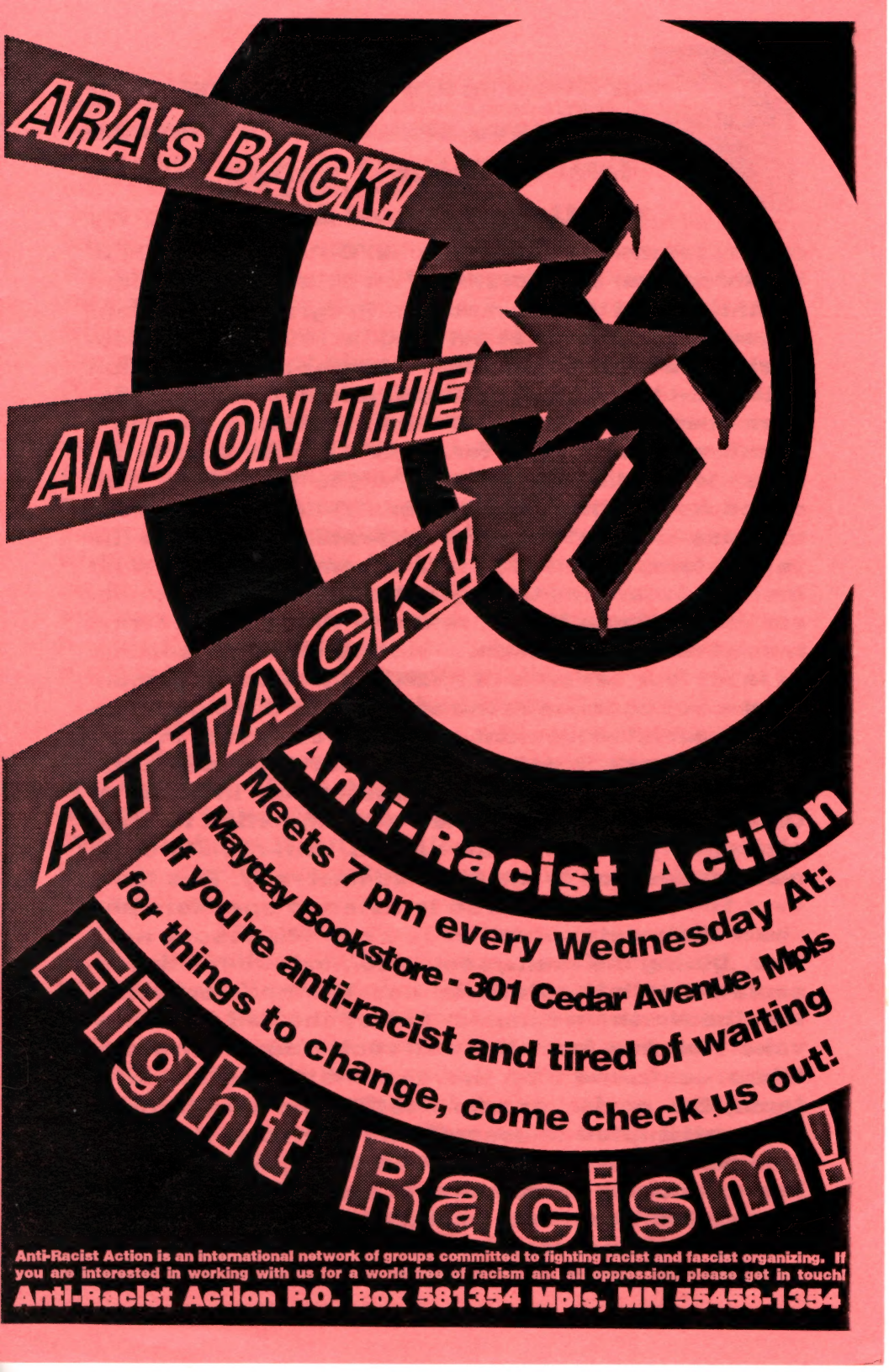
ARA's BACK!
AND ON THE
ATTACK!
Anti-Racist Action
Meets 7 pm every Wednesday At:
Mayday Bookstore - 301 Cedar Avenue, Mpls
If you're anti-racist and tired of waiting
for things to change, come check us out!
Fight Racism!
Anti-Racist Action is an international network of groups committed to fighting racist and fascist organizing. If you are interested in working with us for a world free of racism and all oppression, please get in touch!
Anti-Racist Action P.O. Box 581354 Mpls, MN 55458-1354

For three years running now, neo-nazis have attempted to provoke violence against anti-racists at the University of Minnesota by calling for nazi demonstrations. October 23, 1994 is the three-year anniversary of an attack on members of Anti-Racist Action and the Progressive Student Organization. On that evening in 1991, fifteen neo-nazis attacked a peaceful counter-demonstration with nun-chuks, chains, clubs, and a rottweiler dog. Three people were sent to the hospital, including a Minnesota Daily reporter. Exactly one year later, flyers were distributed around the University that called for another nazi demonstration to celebrate the "ass-kicking" that the anti-racists received the year before. Over 150 people assembled on the West Bank and marched throught the University of Minnesota to Coffman Union, refusing to let the growing fascist movement claim a victory in its organizing. At least four carloads of nazis showed up to demonstrate, but because of the strength of the Minneapolis anti-racist movement, were forced to stay in their cars and accept defeat. One year later neo-nazis again tried to hold a demonstration in front of Coffman Union to show their determination to organize openly for genocide. Again, anti-racists organized opposition to the planned nazi rally. This time, over 100 people gathered to listen to speakers and show their determination to keep Minnesota nazi-free. During the event, some neo-nazi skinheads (associated with the National nazi skinhead organization the Northern Hammer Skins) showed up to provoke violence from the anti-racist demonstrators. When confronted by the demonstration security team, the nazis became hostile and threatening. They attempted to assault Kieran Frazier Knutson, who was doing security for the event, with a pair of brass knuckles (which later in the police report, the nazi stated were for a "metal sculpture" at the University of Minnesota).

Needless to say, Kieran and the security team did their job and protected the demonstration and themselves from the attack. The nazi was arrested at the scene lunging at the crowd and the police, and that was the end of a crazy situation.

Or so we thought, until two months later, when Kieran was served a warrant for his arrest for the assault of the neo-nazi. Even though we all know this nazi is a dumb-ass, he is also smart in that Hitlerian sort of way, and figured out a way to shake the charges off of himself and drop them on Kieran (who he had briefly known from a job they had both worked at, and who also has been one of the most vocal and inspiring anti-racist activists in the Twin Cities for years). Kieran is facing two counts of felony assault, which carry a maximum sentence of ten years, but also a minimum of one year, if convicted of the charges. The trial has been postponed four times because the prosecution has a serious lack of evidence, and has been trying to force a former Minnesota Daily reporter into testifying (which would be a clear breach of journalistic ethics) .

This is a political trial. Ask any honest lawyer if a man who beats up his girlfriend or wife with a dangerous weapon gets these kinds of charges laid on them. They don't. Hennepin County District Attorney Mike Freeman and Prosecutor Gemma Grahams have it out for Kieran, and want to deal a blow to the anti-racist movement as a whole in the Twin Cities.

This year, on the three-year anniversary of the assault on anti-racists at the University, we are going on the offensive. We refuse to let the racists call the shots. We refuse to be beaten back or to give up the struggle against racism and fascism. Fighting racism is not a crime, and we refuse to be intimidated into submission! If you are against racism, and are tired of waiting around for things to change, take things into your own hands and make it happen. It takes just one person to stand up for what's right and take action to make a difference to an entire community. Just do it!

Anti-Racist Action - P.O. Box 581354 Mpls., MN 55458

Who We Are

Anti-Racist Action was formed by a group of people who recognized the need to confront racism, and the racist organizing that exists in Minnesota. From police brutality against people of color in the Twin Cities, to the harrassment of Mexican workers in Willmar; From the blatant racism of Clinton's crime bill to California's Save our State initiative aimed at stripping illegal immigrant workers of existing health care and other legal benefits, it is clear that racism in the U.S. has not gone away. This climate of intolerance and brutality has helped foster a rise in organized white supremacist groups locally and nationally. In the Twin City area alone, there are three main fascist organizations: The Templar Knights of the Ku Klux Klan based in Stillwater, the National Socialist Skin Heads, and Bound for Glory (probably the biggest neo-nazi skinhead band in the world), based in Saint Paul. While these three groups are numerically small, their social base is much bigger than their membership would imply. Many Minnesotans believe that because of the lack of visible fascist organizing, it's not actually taking place. One of the major reasons why this organizing is not visible is because of a historically strong and militant anti-fascist movement in the Twin Cities. Beginning with the anti-racist skinhead group the Baldies in 1989, who defeated attempts by neo-nazi skinheads to organize within the growing skinhead scene, and Anti-Racist Action's success in exposing neo-nazis on the East Side of St.Paul and at the University of Minnesota in 1992, organized fascist groups have been stopped dead in their tracks.

It's Not Just For Skinheads Anymore

Even though the fascists have been in retreat, they have been able to develop a clandestine network that has only just begun to openly expose itself again. Neo-nazi skinheads have started to target the heavy metal scene and recruit white kids from high schools who haven't been influenced by the skinhead style, and who are looking for explanations to the alienation and economic hopelessness they experience in everyday life. Recently, in the "hip" tatoo magazine for "Generation X-ers", Skin Art, Bound For Glory took out a full page ad pushing their new racist album and described it as "Pro-White Metal" . Skinheads aren't the only ones changing their tactics, however. Calls by fascist groups for militarizing the border to keep out "illegal immigrants" are gaining widespread support, and the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan are in the middle of a Midwest recruiting drive and plan to hold demonstrations in over 100 town halls in Ohio alone.

Why You Should Get Involved

These are just a few examples of the potential of an actual fascist movement taking hold in the U.S. However, it can be stopped! Anti-Racist Action is committed to exposing racism whever it occurs, whether it be in the actions of Minneapolis police officers, Government officials, University adminstration, or Nazi Skinheads. We must form a solid opposition of people from all backgrounds and start taking action to confront fascism. If you think that racism and fascism are a problem that won't go away without a fight, join us! **Take action- take ANTI-RACIST ACTION!**